ANNUAL REPORT

of the

Sanitary Conditions

of the Rural District of

Vaynor and Penderyn

in the County of Brecknock,

for the Year,

1944

By . .

T. H. STEPHENS, M.B, Ch.B., D.P.H.

Medical Officer of Health.

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Medical Officer of Health.

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Vaynor and Penderyn Rural District Council

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Sanitary Inspector :

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25, Victoria Street, Merthyr Tydfil.

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To the Chairman and Members of the Vaynor and Penderyn Rural District Council.

Gentlemen,—

I beg to submit for your consideration the Annual Report of the Vital Statistics and Sanitary Conditions of the Rural District for the year 1944. The report is in accordance with the memorandum issued by the Ministry of Health and is an outline only of the main conditions relating to the health of the Rural District and the activities of the Department.

TOPOGRAPHY.—There has been no alteration of the boundaries of the area, which covers approximately 50 square miles; the greater part of it is agricultural and lies on the hilly escarpment of the Brecon Beacons, at heights ranging from 263ft. to 2,250ft. above sea level. Sheep farming and cattle raising are the chief agricultural occupations owing to the scarcity of arable land.

RATEABLE VALUE AS AT 30th SEPTEMBER, 1944:

Parish of Vaynor	£19,430	0	0
Parish of Penderyn	£13,559	0	0
Parish of Ystradfellte ...	£6,498	0	0
Total	£39,487	0	0

PRODUCT OF A PENNY RATE.

Parish of Vaynor	£76	7	5
Parish of Penderyn	£54	6	9
Parish of Ystradfellte	£25	19	10
Total	£156	14	0

POPULATION (CENSUS RETURN).

Vaynor	1544 ...	1619 ...	3163
Penderyn	973 ...	885 ...	1858
Ystradfellte ...	341 ...	309 ...	650
			5671

Reg. General's Estimated Population Mid-year 5100

VITAL STATISTICS.

BIRTHS.—The births registered in the district in 1944 numbered 88 (male 39, female 49), the annual birth rate being 17.3 per 1,000. The county rate in 1942 was 16.40, in 1943 was 15.96, and in 1944 17.87. The birth rate for this area in 1944 was 17.3, compared with 9.07 in 1943 and 14.2 in 1942. Of the total births in the area 1 female was illegitimate.

STILL-BIRTHS.—These numbered 6, the rate per 1,000 of the population being 1.1. the county rate being .53, and for England and Wales .5.

DEATHS.—The total number of deaths assigned to this area was 66 (37 males and 29 females); this figure takes into account 16 inward transferable deaths during the year. There were no outward transfers. The death rate for the year 1944 was 13.0 compared with 14.4 for 1943 and 11.8 for 1942. The county rate for 1944 was 12.12, as against 13.18 for the year 1943. The death rate for England and Wales for 1944 was given as 11.6, compared with 12.1 per 1,000 for the year 1943.

DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER ONE YEAR OF AGE.—These numbered 6, being 1 more than the previous year One was an illegitimate female infant, the others were 3 male and 2 female infants.

Under 1 week—3 (a) Atalectasis and prematurity, (b) debility and prematurity; (c) premature.

Under 1 month—1: Acute ileo colitis.

3 months to 6 months—2 (a) Convulsions; (b) Meningecoceal meningitis.

It is to be noted that whilst the number of deaths was 2 more than the previous year, the infant mortality rate has decreased from 102 to 79.5.

DEATHS UNDER TWO YEARS OF AGE FROM DIARRHOEA.—One death was recorded of a female infant aged 3 weeks.

DEATHS FROM PUERPERAL SEPSIS, ETC. There were none under this heading.

DEATHS FROM CANCER.—Deaths from all forms of Cancer remain very high, numbering 14 for 1944, compared with 7 for 1943, and 9 for 1942, the proportion of male to female deaths being 5 to 9. The percentage of deaths of all causes of deaths was 21.2 for 1944, compared with 9.7 for 1943. This treacherous

disease has taken a great toll of life and the facilities for proper treatment of this disease are limited. The Cancer Act has not been put into operation owing to wartime conditions, but the Breconshire County Council has been represented on meetings in relation to this project during the year. It is to be hoped that radiotherapy and all modern treatment will be available for all the inhabitants of Wales as soon as hostilities are terminated. It is gratifying to know that continued research has found a remedy for one of the common conditions, that is, cancer of the prostate gland.

Deaths from Tuberculosis.—Tuberculosis was responsible for 2 male deaths, the percentage of the total deaths being 3.03.

Your statistics are in accordance with the general trend of other areas. In my view the death rate and incidence from tuberculosis, apart from certain natural biological tendencies, will never be reduced to the minimum that it should be unless we get, first of all, compulsory pasteurisation of milk to eliminate bovine tuberculosis, and until satisfactory housing conditions are obtained for the inhabitants in the area, together with adequate nutrition.

Deaths from Heart Disease.—Heart disease was responsible for 4 male deaths and 7 female deaths, making a total of 11, the percentage of the total deaths being 16.66. This really heads the list of diseases, because it is usually a corroborative concomitant condition associated with other diseases, but often registered simply as heart disease.

Deaths from Bronchitis.—Bronchitis was responsible for 4 deaths (3 male and 1 female), making an average of 6.06.

HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

Laboratory Services for the Area.—Dr. R. Pendrill Charles, who is a Public Analyst for many authorities, has been responsible for the analyses of milk supplies, water and swabs. It was felt that having regard to the fact that the Emergency Public Health Laboratory was in closer praximity that a more expeditious service would be obtained by submitting swabs to this laboratory and this was done during the year.

Ambulance Facilities.—These are available from Merthyr and Aberdare General Hospitals and from Mardy Isolation Hospital. Arrangements were made during the year for ambulance facilities for Ystradfellte and Hepste with the Priory for Wales and for Pontneathvaughan with the Neath R.D.C.

NURSING AT HOME.—This is undertaken by voluntary associations, assisted by grants from the County Council.

CLINICS are carried on by the County Council for expectant mothers and infant welfare at Cefn and Penderyn.

HOSPITALS.—Owing to the close proximity of the area to urban areas like Merthyr and Aberdare, we are fortunate in our hospital facilities. With regard to hospitals for infectious disease, an agreement has been reached with the Merthyr Corporation to nurse infectious diseases from our area at the Mardy Isolation Hospital at a cost of £4 4s. 0d. per week, plus ambulance fees. I am advised that there was a project on prior to the war for erecting an Infectious Diseases Hospital in Brecon.

WATER SUPPLY.—The district has been reasonably satisfactorily supplied with a good water supply: Cefn Coed from the mains of the Taf Fechan Water Board. Pontneathvaughan is supplied by the mains of Neath Rural District Council; Hirwaun is supplied by the mains of the Aberdare Urban District Council.

Penderyn is our own supply by mains from the Cadlan and Ogaf-fawr regions. This supply is chlorinated at the Cadlan pump-house by means of a semi-automatic apparatus installed during the year by Messrs. Boby, of Rickmansworth, and is giving satisfactory service. Samples of water have been analysed and are satisfactory in quality.

In the village of Ystradfellte, which comprises 10 houses, a school and some scattered farms, unfortunately, there is no water supply from the main. The Council has been very concerned about this matter, and has approached the Neath R.D.C. on several occasions for a piped supply. The objection raised to this has been that the pressure at these points has been too high. This does not seem to me to be an insuperable difficulty. It is necessary that this sanitary defect should be remedied, for it is perfectly obvious that no efficient cleansing of utensils in farms where milk is produced or washing down of the udders and flanks of cows can reasonably take place without a good and sufficient water supply, which, at the present time, does not exist.

Drainage and Sewage Disposal Works.—The Council has now provided efficient drainage and sewage works for all the area, except the small village of Ystradfellte, where a small sewage disposal works was under contemplation prior to the outbreak of war. This proposal has of necessity been suspended. The sewage works at Hirwaun needs to be modernised and this will undoubtedly have your consideration at the termination of hostilities.

Refuse Collection.—This collection takes place on three days a week in the Cefn Coed and Hirwaun areas; two days a week at Pontneathvaughan, and once at Pontsticill and Ystradfellte. There is only one motor lorry, which is owned by the Council itself. It appears to me that the question of an incinerator at Hirwaun should be examined very seriously at the end of the war.

Milk, Meat and other Foods.—Since the outbreak of war, as you are aware, meat has been slaughtered at various Government slaughterhouses, where inspection has taken place. The necessity, therefore, has not arisen for such detailed examination of meat as has been the practice in the past. With reference to milk and other foods, close inspection has been maintained. The number of samples of milk taken for cleanliness has been 30. This number includes the following grades: 2 tuberculin tested; 3 pasteurised; 1 accredited.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES IN 1944.

Disease.	Total Cases.	Admitted to Hospital.	Deaths.
Small Pox	0	0	0
Scarlet Fever	4	0	0
Diphtheria	8	8	0
Enteric Fever	0	0	0
Pneumonia	2	0	2
Puerperal Pyrexia ...	0	0	0
Erysipelas	0	0	0
Cerebro-spinal Fever ...	1	0	0
Measles	5	0	0
Whooping Cough ...	6	0	0
Influenza	1	0	1

HOUSING.

It was ascertained in 1939 that 202 new houses would be required in the area 102 of which have been erected, thus leaving 100 for erection at cessation of hostilities. The Council has contemplated the erection of 132 houses, to enlarge the present housing estates at Bryntaf and Maescynon, and also erect houses at Pontsticill and Pontneathvaughan.

The years of war have increased the overcrowding of families in the villages, and with the present increase in marriages amongst young Service-men and women, many more houses will be required. The introduction of prefabricated bungalows by the Government will help to alleviate overcrowding and provide homes for small families.

The direction of the Ministry of Health to local authorities to carry out a survey of the housing conditions in rural areas will be made in the coming year. This survey will show in detail the standard and conditions of the houses and indicate the degree of overcrowding which exists.

IMMUNISATION.

The immunisation of children under 5 years and between 5-15 years, which was commenced in 1941, has continued in a very satisfactory manner. During the year 78 children of ages ranging from 1 to 15 years were immunised. Up to the 30th June, 1945,, 93.2% of the children aged 1-5 years have been immunised in the area. In the age group 5-15, 75.7% of the children have been immunised, which can be considered a reasonably satisfactory state of affairs.

SCHOOLS.

There have been no major repairs to schools during the year.

I am,

Yours faithfully,

T. H. STEPHENS.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE

INCOME.		£	s.	d.
BALANCE brought forward from 31st March, 1943		2702	14	1
Rate Income—				
General Expenses chargeable on whole district, including additional Items of General Rates		36025	5	10
Special Rates		411	3	0
Water Rates and Charges (Penderyn)		90	6	4
Water Charges (Ystradfellte)		0	6	0
Ministry of Health—				
Parochial Exchequer Grants		191	10	0
Exchequer Grant—Capitation Sum		63	0	0
Tithe Act Grant		270	6	3
Government Evacuation Scheme—Reimbursement		381	7	11
Ministry of Labour—				
Grant—Penderyn Waterworks		97	12	8
Brecon County Council—				
Salaries of Medical Officer of Health and Sanitary Inspector—Grant		149	8	3
Proportion of Parochial Exchequer Grants		95	15	0
Air Raid Precautions—Reimbursement of Expenditure ...		4	12	0
British Restaurant, Cefn Coed—				
Income from Sale of Meals, etc.		4453	15	6
Other Income—				
Rental of Garden—Cefn Coed Sewage Works ...	£0 6 0			
Sale of Hay do. ...	2 0 0			
Miscellaneous Sale	0 15 0			
		7	3	6
Rent of Garden—Cefn Isaf	0 1 0			
Accident Claim—Scavenging Lorry	7 2 6			
			3	6
Receipts from Public Conveniences		0	10	6
Small Dwellings Acquisition Acts		15	5	6
Sale of Salvage		46	7	5
Searches—Local Land Charges Registry		2	7	6
Petrol Licences		4	15	0
Bank Interest		8	2	4
Miscellaneous Income		184	13	7
		£45,209	9	2

EXPENDITURE.				£	s.	d.
Due under Precepts—						
Brecon County Council				28676	2	0
Breconshire Assessment Committee				40	19	4
Penderyn Parish Council				35	0	0
Ystradfellte Parish Council				81	2	6
Sewage Disposal Works—						
Cefn Coed Sewage Disposal Works—Working Exes				352	7	5
Pontsticill Sewage Works—Working Expenses ...	£219	8	1½			
do. Loan and Interest ...	89	13	8			
				309	1	9½
Hirwaun Sewage Works—Working Expenses ...	219	16	10			
do. (Housing)—Loan and Interest ...	8	6	11			
				228	3	9
Ystradfellte Sewage Disposal—Working Expenses				1	10	0
Penderyn Sewage Works—Working Expenses ...	133	12	10			
do. Loan and Interest ...	188	19	7			
				322	12	5
Pontneathvaughan Sew. Dis.—Working Expenses	190	12	7			
do. Loan and Interest	132	2	3			
				322	14	10
Penderyn Waterworks—Working Expenses ...	336	7	6½			
do. Loan and Interest ...	384	6	11			
				720	14	5½
Ystradfellte Waterworks—Working Expenses ...				46	15	5
Scavenging—Throughout district				1343	17	4½
Public Conveniences				18	6	1
Public Lighting—Vaynor	81	0	6			
do. Penderyn	107	18	0			
do. Ystradfellte	225	0	0			
				413	18	6
Yards and Sheds				57	8	7
British Restaurant, Cefn Coed—						
Working Expenses, Goods, etc.	4285	18	4			
Amortisation of Capital	215	0	0			
				4500	18	4
Playing Field, Cefn Coed				10	7	6
Public Health Services—						
Notification of Disease & General Disinfection	58	12	3			
Salaries of Officers, etc.	968	1	7			
Maintenance of Fever Patients	532	17	6			
Diphtheria Immunisation	29	1	6			
Brecon Isolation Hospital—Contribution ...	7	17	5			
Returns of Births and Deaths	1	14	8			
Milk and Water Testing	20	12	9			
				1618	17	8
Housing—						
Annual Contribution—Housing Revenue A/c.	319	16	9			
Additional Contribution do. ...	78	11	9			
				398	8	6
Financial Adjustment Ystradfellte Parish—						
Loan and Interest				456	6	4
Cost of Collection of Rates—General Rate ...	745	12	9			
do. Special Rate ...	8	14	1			
				754	6	10
Valuation Expenses				224	7	8½
Establishment Charges				530	12	10
Other Expenses—						
National Fire Service—Contribution				107	0	0
Small Dwellings Acquisition Acts				14	4	1
Telephone Kiosk, Cefn Coed				2	2	0
Salvage—Cost of Collection				228	12	11½
War Damage Act—Contribution				96	12	2
Brecon County Council—Superannuation Fund				204	5	10
Air Raid Precautions				63	19	11
Government Evacuation Scheme				464	8	9
National Insurances				55	19	5
Vaynor and Hirwaun Nursing Associations ...				50	0	0
Other Payments				136	5	9
BALANCE carried forward				2319	18	1½
				£45.209	9	2

INCOME.

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
BALANCES BROUGHT FORWARD :						
Sewage Disposal Works ...	56	1	8			
Playing Field	31	18	9			
Housing	2245	15	5			
				2333	15	10
SMALL DWELLINGS ACQUISITION :						
Repayment of Advances ...				17	6	8
HOUSING :						
Revenue and Special Accounts				574	11	5
BRITISH RESTAURANT, CEFN COED :						
Repayment of part Capital Expenditure by Ministry of Food				100	0	0
SEWERAGE & SEWAGE DISPOSAL WORKS :						
Written off				0	1	11
BALANCES CARRIED FORWARD :						
Small Dwellings Acquisition ...	8	13	4			
British Restaurant, Cefn Coed	360	3	9			
				368	17	1
				£3394	12	11

Audited and found correct,
(Signed) A. R. PARR,
Assistant District Auditor.

21*st July*, 1944.

EXPENDITURE.

	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
BALANCES BROUGHT FORWARD :		
Small Dwellings Acquisition ...	8 13 4	
British Restaurant, Cefn Coed	118 9 9	
		127 3 1
SMALL DWELLINGS ACQUISITION :		
Capital Expenditure		17 6 8
HOUSING :		
Revenue and Special Accounts		42 3 10
BRITISH RESTAURANT, CEFN COED :		
Capital Expenditure		341 14 0
BALANCES CARRIED FORWARD :		
Sewage and Sewage Disposal...	56 3 7	
Playing Field	31 18 9	
Housing	2778 3 0	
		2866 5 4
		£3394 12 11

RONALD H. ROSE,
Chief Financial Officer.

1st *April*, 1944.